

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 14874 130404Z  
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSM-03 HA-05 MCE-00 ACDA-12  
OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
IO-13 /111 W

-----037585 130538Z /14

R 130359Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0228  
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION SINAI  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: MASS SA FR EG  
SUBJECT: OCTOBER REPORTS \$24 BILLION SAUDI-FRENCH  
- ARMS DEAL

1. IN JUNE 11 ISSUE OCTOBER, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF ANIS MANSOUR  
CLAIMS KING KHALID DURING RECENT VISIT AGREED SAUDI ARABIA  
WOULD PURCHASE \$24 BILLION WORTH OF ARMS FROM FRANCE FOR  
DELIVERY BEGINNING IN 1980. MANSOUR SAYS SAUDI ARABIA  
REQUESTED TANKS, ANTI-TANK HELICOPTERS, AND "MORE  
IMPORTANTLY" A RADAR NETWORK TO COVER WHOLE RED SEA  
AREA, "WHICH ISRAEL CONSIDERS AS A PASSAGE FOR AIR  
RECONNAISSANCE."

2. ACCORDING TO MANSOUR, SAUDI ARABIA ALSO TRANSFERRED  
TO FRENCH BANKS \$26 BILLION IN SAUDI HOLDINGS TO HELP  
FRANCE ECONOMICALLY. MANSOUR CLAIMS SAUDIS HAD DECIDED  
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TO DO THIS BEFORE FRENCH ELECTIONS BUT FRENCH PRESIDENT  
ASKED THEM TO POSTPONE THIS UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTION SO  
THAT "THE COMMUNISTS AND SOCIALISTS COULD NOT USE IT  
AGAINST HIM."

3. IN SWIPE AT THE RUSSIANS, MANSOUR CLAIMS THAT SOVIET  
SATELLITES FLEW OVER RED SEA AREA AND TOOK PHOTOGRAPHS

BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 28 AND OCTOBER 18, 1973, BUT THEY DID NOT GIVE EGYPT EVEN ONE PHOTOGRAPH "FOR ANY REASON OR FOR ANY PRICE."

4. COMMENT: IN VIEW NUMEROUS DENIALS OF NEW SAUDI-FRENCH ARAMS DEAL, WE WOULD HAVE NORMALLY NOT REPORTED THIS ARTICLE. HOWEVER, ANIS MANSOUR IS CURRENT SADAT FAVORITE FOR AUTHORITATIVE LEAKS AND WE ASSUME HE HAS SOME BASIS FOR THIS STORY. EILTS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, REPORTS, ARMS, MILITARY SALES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978CAIRO14874  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780246-0276  
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**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Subject:** OCTOBER REPORTS \$24 BILLION SAUDI-FRENCH - ARMS DEAL  
**TAGS:** MASS, SOPN, SA, FR, EG  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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